

REMARK

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005.

Claims 1-9, 13-16, 19-28, 37, 38, 40-49, 55 and 56 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 13-16, 19-28, 37, 38, 40-49, 55 and 56.

The present Response amends claims 1, 19-20, 40 and 45 leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-9, 13-16, 19-28, 37, 38, 40-49, 55 and 56. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 14-16, 37 and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Knutson, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,100.

Claims 6, 8, 19-28, 45-49 and 55-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,100.

The Knutson reference concerns a system that caches previously deployed EJBs. When EJBs are to be redeployed they are compared with the cached EJBs. If they have not been any changes in the EJBs, then the cached EJBs can be redeployed.

Claims 1, 40 and 45 read as follows:

1. A method of automatically deploying an application across a distributed computing domain including a plurality of processing devices, the method comprising:

(a) automatically scanning for an undeployed application stored in an application directory accessible to at least one of the plurality of processing devices, the application directory including at least one currently deployed application;

(b) recognizing an undeployed application in the application directory;
and

(c) deploying the undeployed application to a selected portion of the plurality of processing devices, such that the application is capable of being executed by the portion of the plurality of processing devices.

40. A processing system including at least a first processing device and a memory device accessible by the first processing device, the processing system comprising:

a group of processor readable instructions stored in the memory device and operating the first processing device to perform a group of steps including:

(a) automatically scanning for an undeployed application stored in an application directory accessible to first processing device, the application directory including at least one currently deployed application;

- (b) recognizing an undeployed application in the application directory;
- and
- (c) deploying the undeployed application to a selected portion of the processing system, such that the application is capable of being executed by the portion of the processing system.

45. A processing system including at least a first processing device and a memory device accessible by the first processing device, the processing system comprising:

a group of processor readable instructions stored in the memory device and operating the first processing device to perform a group of steps including:

- (a) retrieving a list of all of the application files located within an application directory, the application directory including at least one currently deployed application;

- (b) comparing the list of all of the files located within an application directory to a list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects;

- (c) for each application file, deploying the application object contained in the application file when the application file is absent from the list of all the files associated with currently deployed application objects;

- (d) for each application file, redeploying the application object contained in the application file when the application file differs from the corresponding file on the list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects; and

- (e) for each application file on the list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects, undeploying the application object associated with an application file when the application file on the list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects is absent from the list of all of the application files located within the application directory.

These claims have been amended to include the limitation of “the application directory including at least one currently deployed application”. Knutson does not disclose, suggest or give a motivation for such a system. Knutson describes a cache system in which previously deployed EJB objects are cached for later use. The above claims now distinguish from such a cache system by indicating that there are currently deployed applications indicated in the application directory rather than just previously deployed EJBs that can be obtained from a cache.

Claims 19 and 45 have also been amended so that these claims concern “currently deployed applications”.

Claims 19 and 55 reads as follows:

19. A method of automatically maintaining an application object across a distributed computing domain, the application object contained within at least one

application file and the distributed computing domain including a plurality of processing devices, the method comprising the steps:

(a) retrieving a list of all of the application files located within an application directory;

(b) comparing the list of all of the files located within an application directory to a list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects;

(c) for each application file, deploying the application object contained in the application file when the application file is absent from the list of all the files associated with currently deployed application objects;

(d) for each application file, redeploying the application object contained in the application file when the application file differs from the corresponding file on the list of all of the files associated with previously deployed application objects; and

(e) for each application file on the list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects, undeploying the application object associated with an application file when the application file on the list of all of the files associated with currently deployed application objects is absent from the list of all of the application files located within the application directory.

55. A computer implemented method for deploying applications to an application server comprising:

automatically deploying an application to an application server when corresponding unpackaged application files are added to a smart directory; and

automatically undeploying the application when the corresponding unpackaged application files are removed from the smart directory.

Claims 19 and 55 include undeploying applications that are not in a directory. This is not shown, suggested or given a motivation for in the Knutson reference.

Knutson describes conventional deployment of EJB objects with the advantage that a cache can be used for previously deployed EJB objects. Since caches are not used to undeploy objects there is therefore no suggestion or motivation given by Knutson to undeploy an application that is not in a directory as claimed in claims 19 and 55.

For the above reasons, independent claims 1, 29, 40 and 45 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 20-29, 37-38, 40-49 and 56 are dependent on these independent claims and for that reason, and because of the additional limitations of these claims, these dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The

Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2006

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